

Steam Cleaning

Objective: To remove heavy residual oil from solid substrates or man-made structures.

Description: Steam or very hot water (171°F [77°C] to 212°F [100°C]) is sprayed with hand-held wands at high pressure (2,000+ psi [14,400 kpa]). Water volumes are very low compared to flushing methods.

Applicable Habitat Types: Man-made structures such as seawalls and riprap.

When to Use: When heavy oil residue must be removed for aesthetic reasons, when hot water flushing is not effective, and no living resources are present.

Biological Constraints: Not to be used in areas of soft substrates, vegetation, nor high biological abundance directly on, nor below, the structure.

Environmental Effects: Complete destruction of all organisms in the spray zone. Difficult to recover all released oil. If containment methods are not sufficient, oil may be flushed into nearshore areas.

Waste Generation: Depends on the effectiveness of the collection method. Usually sorbents are used, generating significant waste volumes.